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SCIENTOLOGISTS-NSA
WASHINGTON (AP) -- THE FOUNDING CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY SUED THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY TODAY, SEEKING RELEASE UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT OF INTELLIGENCE FILES THE AGENCY ADMITS IT HOLDS ON THE CHURCH GROUP.

THE SECURITY AGENCY FIRST TOLD THE CHURCH THAT IT COULD NOT LOCATE THEFILES, BUT AFTER THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SAID IT HAD BEEN PROVIDED THE FILES BY THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY, THE NSA WROTE TO THE CHURCH AND SAID THE FILES HAD BEEN LOCATED BUT WOULD NOT BE RELEASED.

JOHN R. HARNEY, THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL OFFICER AT THE NSA, SAID IN A LETTER TO THE CHURCH THAT BECAUSE THE MATERIAL IN THE FILES WAS OBTAINED ''IN THE COURSE OF A CLASSIFIED FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITY'' IT WOULD NOT BE RELEASED.

HE SAID THAT AFTER THE CIA PROVIDED HIS AGENCY WITH NEW INFORMATION ABOUT THE DOCUMENTS, 15 OF THEM ''WERE LOCATED IN WAREHOUSE STORAGE.'' THERE WAS NO EXPLENATION ABOUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF A 16TH DOCUMENT SOUGHT BY THE CHURCH.

THE CHURCH SAID THAT IT MADE SIX REQUESTS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT FOR NSA DOCUMENTS BUT UNTIL THE CIA ADMITTED HAVING THE DOCUMENTS IN ITS OWN FILES, THE NSA DENIED HOLDING THEM.

THE SUIT WAS FILED IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT HERE.

08-11-75 15:34EDT

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